

# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



January, 1948

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An Emergency Housing Program

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Doing anything about Apprentice Training?

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Your Building Code is up to You!

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Poland Plans and Rebuilds

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Here are Traveling Fellowships

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Should a child know Architecture?

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Wurster Speaks on Architectural Education

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# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JANUARY, 1948

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## A New Year's Recapitulation

THE JOURNAL is four years old. When it was launched in January 1944, its purpose and its chief aims were set forth in a statement by the Editor. Most of those aims seem as valid today—particularly the following:

"What the JOURNAL does earnestly hope to do is pick up, as with a microphone, the voice of the profession, and amplify it to audibility."

The statement went on to say: "There is evidence that the architect himself would like to hear this voice, as well as to help give it words." Four years' experience has shown that, while the first part of that sentence is still true, the second part is open to question. It would seem that the architect is willing to listen but unwilling to talk. His development of facility with a pencil seems to have atrophied his powers of expressing his thoughts with a pen.

When serving my apprenticeship in writing, my editorial chief, when he saw me approaching with a new offering, would instinctively reach for his blue pencil. Almost

without reading what I had hopefully written, he would begin the devastating strokes of blue. Architects as a class are rather like that. Their training has accentuated the faculty of intelligent criticism. They would rather say what is wrong with another's proposal than risk offering one of their own devising. Viewing the architect objectively and dispassionately, isn't that true?

Chief among our New Year's resolutions, therefore, is the resolve to arouse the individual architect to voice his thoughts. It is inconceivable that he is paying no heed to where the profession is going, and why; whether it is on the right road or in a blind alley; whether the revolution in educational methods and curricula is producing better architects, or worse; whether specialization is an inevitable development in our profession as it has been in others; whether the practitioner of today should continue to assert authority in a rapidly widening circle of technical knowledge. He cannot dismiss such questions and many

others of equal importance with the determination to let George worry about them.

Assuming, then, that the architect has some thoughts on matters of primary importance to his profession, the exchange of these thoughts with his fellow practitioners should combine to form a resultant, just as does a stress diagram in graphic statics. And the paper on which these should be plotted is that of the JOURNAL's pages.

It has been said of the JOURNAL that it has been concerned too

much with the past. Looking backward is not our preferred indoor sport, but our crystal ball is cloudy; we cannot see the path leading from the present into the future and issue ukases concerning it. The Editor is not a seer nor a prophet; he can only be an agent in correlating the thoughts and visions of those among us who think and see—and *write*.

To quote once again from the first issue of the JOURNAL:

"The profession itself must assume responsibility for its own destiny."—H.H.S.

## An Emergency Housing Program

A STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, A.I.A.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS is keenly aware of the housing shortage still confronting the country and of the high importance of finding means of correcting it. For the information of its members and of the public, the Board of Directors, assembled at Charleston, S. C., on December 4th, 1947, adopted the following recommendations for an emergency housing program:

Material shortages in the construction industry are gradually being relieved and there should,

before long, be a steady and adequate flow of building materials, assuming that the export of building materials is properly controlled. Equally important with the increased production of materials, is the return to a more balanced production. In many cases the materials produced for housing and for heavy construction are complementary, and they can be produced more economically for both kinds of construction than if the production is restricted to one type or the other. Within a period of two

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or three years, barring any unforeseen development, there may be a reduction in the cost of building materials as a result of greater competition and greater production.

The shortage of skilled on-site labor is a more serious deterrent to an adequate expansion of construction, and constitutes the No. 1 problem of the building industry. We need, immediately, an improvement in the productivity of the limited supply of construction labor that is now available. In addition we must accelerate apprentice training and the acceptances of apprentices by both employers and labor unions if we expect to meet the nation's accumulated construction needs.

Federal assistance is now given, on a very substantial scale, to college training for veterans. A larger portion of the funds now made available for education and training of veterans should be used for developing and supporting more effective vocational training schools for building mechanics. Better vocational schools could produce good mechanics more rapidly than present training methods if organized labor would adapt its membership requirements to accelerated training procedures. It is essen-

tial that labor organizations take effective steps to raise the efficiency of labor and to adequately increase the number of journeymen.

Private initiative has made a start on overcoming the housing shortage. Liberal mortgage provisions with Government guarantee to the loaning institution against loss has provided generally adequate funds for financing. One of the greatest deterrents to construction, particularly of rental housing, is the failure to announce a definite program for the gradual raising of rental ceilings and their ultimate elimination. We therefore urge, as one of the most effective incentives to private construction, the gradual raising of rental ceilings and the ultimate elimination of all rent controls. The transition should be made carefully, however, in order to avoid creating inflationary tendencies sufficient to precipitate a new round of increases in wages and prices.

Under the present F.H.A. Title VI procedure and the Veterans' Housing Program, the Federal Government takes most of the risks of present construction costs; but these programs have provided practically no housing for families of low income. Dwelling units vacated by families that are able

to afford the cost of new housing have in the past been relied upon to supply the needs of low-income families. This system of "filtering down" fails in the face of the housing shortage. The "filtering down" process will not really begin to operate as an indirect producer of housing for low-income families until the vacancy ratio reaches at least 5%.

For the specific purpose of meeting the needs of low-income families during the present housing emergency, therefore, we make the following recommendation: In addition to the encouragement of private enterprise in home construction, an immediate resumption of public housing in local areas where there is a critical housing shortage.

The conversion of existing structures to provide a large number of dwelling units with existing facilities should be encouraged. This method, wherever it is applicable, will give quicker and more economical results than new construction and will make less extensive demands on the supply of building materials.

To summarize, we recommend the following program:

1. The stimulation of an intensive

program of apprentice training which will produce, as rapidly as possible, an adequate supply of skilled on-site building labor.

2. The determination and public announcement of a definite program for the gradual elimination of rent control.

3. A conversion program to increase the number of rental units in existing structures.

4. The undertaking, for the next two years, of a publicly financed housing program. This should be similar to the U.S.H.A. public housing just prior to the war except as follows:

(a) Construction-cost limitations should be increased to allow the use of prewar physical standards at current construction costs.

(b) During the period of the housing emergency, the equivalent elimination of substandard housing should not be required.

(c) Control of planning and design as well as ownership and management should be vested in the Local Housing Authorities.

# The Architect and the Building Code

*By Emil J. Szendy*

"Those dull and infuriating documents — Building Codes" — Maurice Webster in "What Is 'Fireproof'?"

**T**HAT BUILDING CODES are dull cannot be gainsaid, and it is unlikely that they will ever be zestful reading; that they are frequently infuriating is partly due to the apathy of the architects when Building Codes are written or revised.

There are over fifteen hundred Building Codes in effect today in the United States, and there is hardly an architect who does not work, at least occasionally, under the limitations and restrictions of an obsolete Code, or a Code which leaves him dazed and incoherent. The architect and his client are directly concerned, and the architects, individually and as a group, should far more actively participate in improvement of Building Codes than is the case today.

When Code study and revision was first attempted back in 1931, Edward H. Brown and Albert Kahn rendered magnificent service as members of the Department of Commerce Building Code Committee which prepared BH14, "Recommended Minimum Require-

ments for Fire Resistance in Buildings." Up to recent times, BH14 served as the pattern for Code writers, and innumerable Codes followed its recommendations.

Later, Albert Kahn served as a member of the same committee in the preparation of M151, "Design and Construction of Building Exits," an exhaustive study of the subject; the Report, published in 1935, is still authoritative source material.

With the passing of the Hoover Administration, the Department of Commerce Building Code Committee was dissolved and the work was later continued under the auspices and procedure of the American Standards Association. The ASA procedure is to set up Sectional Committees for each Standard, with membership from the professions, industry and related interests. Under the ASA procedure, the process of evolving the much needed Standards has been painfully slow; reconciliation of basically different viewpoints has been time-consuming, and the accepted compromises eventually published as recommended basic Building Code requirements have not had

the general acceptance accorded the work of the defunct Department of Commerce Building Code Committee. One important Sectional Committee, working on "Building Code Requirements for Fire Protection and Fire Resistance," has been at work for five years; and the end is not yet in sight. In the meantime Code consultants are not given access to the findings or recommendations of the Committee, although industry does not hesitate to quote from the incomplete Standard to gain a point in local Code preparation.

The A.I.A. has representation on practically all of the ASA Sectional Committees, but the preponderance of nonprofessional viewpoints on the Committees prevents effective action.

More effective action must be taken by the professions, especially the architectural profession, if tangible and worth-while results, comparable to BH14 and M151, are to be achieved. The rearrangement and revision under way today will barely scratch the surface and will not reach the roots of the evils in Building Codes. Far more has to be done than just to substitute reference Codes and performance requirements for the obviously antiquated specification requirements.

The provisions and requirements of Building Codes, even the best Building Codes, require analysis, study, change, deletion; and the work should be done by professional men working together, examining the traditional forms, provisions and requirements, and the manner of their exposition; setting up Standards of Good Practice; working with other groups to edit, rearrange and clarify existing Standards; and to coordinate the whole.

The matter of Code arrangement needs re-study. A desirable Code arrangement is one which will facilitate its use in the manner in which Codes are customarily used. It should not be necessary to look in three places for regulations affecting the use of a material as is the case when, for instance, the requirements for steel as a material are in one chapter, the allowable stresses in another chapter, and the requirements for fabrication and assembly in a third chapter; nor should it be necessary to wade through the greater part of a Code and its innumerable footnotes to determine what the general requirements are for a building of specific occupancy. The trend generally is toward more

classifications of occupancy and toward requirements related to the hazard of the occupancy; be it hazard requiring special provisions for egress, hazard to the building or the community because of flammability of the contents, or hazard to health, public welfare or morals inherent in the use or occupancy.

Economy in construction and simplicity in presentation require that, within reasonable limits, provisions be related to the occupancy. This does not mean that the Code should be a series of miniature Codes; a compromise between the two customary arrangements will benefit from the advantages inherent in each.

The traditional Code requirements should be re-examined for their validity, source and propriety. In spite of all that has been said and done about revision, Codes, more often than not, include and repeat the customary requirements, many of which fail to make good sense. Under most Codes a chimney in a dwelling house may be built one brick thick, and to it may be connected stoves or furnaces generating flue-gas temperatures over 1,000° F. For certain occupancies, an incinerator flue may be similarly constructed, although the flue-gas temperature should be

over 1,200° F. for proper combustion of obnoxious odors. Yet, under most Codes, a chimney so constructed may not be used in a small commercial building, although the connected heating device is equipped with controls and heat transfer surfaces, and the flue-gas temperature never exceeds 600° F.

The usual theater curtain has a fire-resistance rating of only ½ hour, but the walls surrounding the curtain are required by most Codes to have a fire-resistance rating of 4 hours.

There is a crying need for Standards of Good Practice, drafted by the architectural and engineering professions and accepted by industry, with application not only in the preparation of Building Codes, but also in the writing of specifications. Standards of Good Practice could be incorporated by reference into most Building Codes as representing accepted safe practice and prima facie evidence of conformity with that basic Building Code requirement, safe construction.

The British are far ahead of us in this work. In spite of reconstruction, upset economy, insufficient food and international crises, the British have issued documents



called "British Standard Codes of Practice," prepared by the Codes of Practice Committee for Civil Engineering, Public Works and Building, and arranged under three headings: 1. "Carcase Series," equivalent to our requirements for the structure of the building; 2. "Finishing Series," dealing with interior finish; and 3. "Installation Series" dealing with mechanical equipment. The membership of Codes of Practice Committees is almost entirely from the professions.

In addition, a Joint Committee of the Building Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and of the Fire Offices' Committee in London is in process of preparing a report on "Fire Grading of Buildings." The subjects covered by this Report include: General Principles and Structural Precautions; Fire Fighting Equipment in Buildings; Means of Escape; Chimneys and Flues; and generally cover the same ground as provisions under similar headings in American Building Codes. Part I of this Report—General Principles and Structural Requirements—was issued in 1946 and is an exhaustive and competent study of the subject. A comparable study and re-

port is badly needed in the United States, not only to establish rational Building Code requirements but also to serve as a textbook for the professions in the preparation of Building Code regulations.

In recent years architects have been called upon, right in the midst of the busiest period in a lifetime, to participate in the rewriting or revising of Building Codes. Many have found the work not only involved, complicated and time-consuming, but also heartbreaking because of lack of support, spirited interest and cooperation from their colleagues. In one large city, a meeting called to discuss Building Code revision was so sparsely attended as to be a complete failure, even though a well-informed speaker had come a considerable distance to address the assembly. Although the subject is of prime importance to the architects and to the city in which they live or do their work, participation and active work is by the few, and even that is frequently grudgingly given.

When public hearings get under way the architects stay away in droves, while the proponents of special interests appear to persuade the Council committee of the righteousness of their demands;

and there is no one present to question their frequently plausible arguments. Seemingly, the architect is unwilling to stick his neck out, either individually, or as an A.I.A. Chapter, or as an Architectural Society. Participation in controversy may be undignified, but is necessary to prevent the introduction of provisions which are later "infuriating." Then, there is always the fear that the Building Code will become a political football, and that by clever distortion the football and the architects may become one and the same. The smart thing to do, say the architects, is to stay out of it entirely.

Actually the architects, especially when acting as a group, are in a much stronger position than they realize. Usually the Council committee is composed of lay members without building experience, who sit and listen to technical discussions completely beyond their ken, and who welcome with joy and relief, unbiased, qualified opinions and recommendations from an unselfish professional source. Active participation of the architects at public hearings is essential and needed, provided that—and this is of great importance—the participating architects are adequately informed and have a background

of knowledge derived from the study of Codes and source material and are not expressing arbitrary opinions based upon superficial investigation.

The procedure followed in drafting the Building Code for Cleveland and some of the proposed provisions may be of interest to other cities doing like work.

The Code chapters were written in first-draft form and these first drafts were immediately issued for examination and review by professional committees, committees of the building industry, and to industry generally. The reviews and comments from all sources were then assembled and evaluated and a revised draft prepared which was again issued to all concerned. In this manner the time-consuming wrangling over minor questions, frequently experienced at public hearings, was avoided.

The Cleveland Chapter of the A.I.A. participated through a Building Code Committee in which most members of the Chapter were included at one time or another. Chapters of the Code dealing with specific occupancies were reviewed by members of the Chapter especially familiar, from active practice, with the requirements for such occupancies.

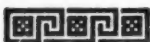
This A.I.A. Building Code Committee sponsored and assisted in the formation of a "Joint Building Code Committee of Professional Architects and Engineers," a Central Code Committee of ten members, each member representing a professional society. The members of this Central Committee acted as liaison officers for their societies, and the Joint Committee, functioning as a clearing house for suggestions, criticisms and recommendations, reconciled differences of opinion and was able to speak for all professional men at the public hearings.

The Cleveland Building Code is being written to serve the regulated public, and every attempt is being made to facilitate its convenient use by the regulated public. The arrangement is such that a "Dwelling House Code" can be assembled from integral parts of the Code and printed separately. Similarly, a "Multiple Dwelling Code," included under Requirements based on Occupancy, contains all regulations governing the construction and use of multiple dwellings, including apartment

houses, hotels, rooming houses and similar buildings of human habitation.

The Code will introduce a new term, "fire load," analagous to "live load." The requirements for fire resistance in fireproof buildings will depend upon the amount of combustibles present in the intended occupancy, i.e. the "fire load." Three classes of fireproof construction are defined, each deemed to be adequate for a listed group of occupancies. In this manner the required fireproof construction for an occupancy will be only that necessary to withstand a complete burnout. When changes in occupancy are contemplated, greater fire resistance can be incorporated, as would be the case in designing for greater future live loads.

The Code has been drafted after exhaustive study of source material and critical examination of existing Codes. Provisions have been included for setting up a Board of Standards and Appeals empowered to approve new materials, prepare rules and regulations, grant variances, and recommend changes in the Code.



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## The Institute's Secretary

AT THE END of its Semi-Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, December 6, 1947, the Board of Directors of The Institute accepted with deep regret the resignation of Alexander Cochrane Robinson, III, F.A.I.A., as Secretary. Mr. Robinson has held the office since his first election by the Convention of 1943 at Cincinnati. Pressure of his activities in the firm of Garfield, Harris, Robinson & Schafer, Cleveland, Ohio, made it necessary for him to resign the Institute Secretaryship. His broad knowledge of Institute affairs, his mature judgment, his devotion to the best in-

terests of the profession, and—not least—his resonant voice on the Convention platform, will be sadly missed.

The Board elected Clair William Ditchy, F.A.I.A. of Detroit, to fill the unexpired term as Secretary of The American Institute of Architects. A former Director of the A.I.A. representing the Great Lakes District, a past President of the Detroit Chapter, a past President of the Michigan Society of Architects, present Chairman of The Institute's Committee on By-Laws, Mr. Ditchy needs no introduction to anyone even remotely connected with The A.I.A.



## Architecture in the Elementary Schools

*By J. Robert Buffler*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

ARCHITECTS are continually moaning about the public—its bad taste in architecture, its lack of appreciation, its doubtfulness of the necessity of architectural services and its general lack of understanding of all things architectural. Scarcely an issue of

the JOURNAL appears without some reference to the subject so close to the hearts of the architects — their Public — deploring, suggesting, trying small experiments here and there that scarcely reach a fraction of one per cent.

How can the Public be told?

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Let's stop beating around the bush and go to the place where eighty per cent of the people learn eighty per cent of what they know.

The answer then is: Put architecture into the curricula of the elementary and secondary schools. The answer is simple but the accomplishment is difficult. It calls for the united effort of the entire body of architects in the nation. It calls for the organization of a campaign headed by The American Institute of Architects with perhaps a special committee and special funds. It calls for the public expression of well-rounded arguments by our best writers and speakers. It calls for teacher-training programs to be set up in the architectural schools where perhaps an intensive summer's work would give an interested teacher a basis for elementary or secondary instruction. Finally and most important, the school boards must be won over to our way of thinking.

The reasons for the inclusion of architecture in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools are two-fold. They divide into the cultural or esthetic, and the practical.

The cultural background of

architecture, its history and appreciation, forms the outline of the world's cultural development. This statement needs no apology. Why, then, has it been left to painting, sculpture and music to carry the responsibility of cultural education? It may be easy of explanation but it is hard to understand. Even at the college level these three are at the forefront of the course offerings for the general cultural background in the arts—Princeton and a few others excepted. Arguments for architecture to lead the way are easy to find and can be used vigorously.

The arguments for the practical necessity are, of course, bound up in the cultural but may be separated for lay consideration. A public educated in the appreciation and fundamental principles of architecture will demand better space for living. That in itself constitutes a major advance. But they must know what is available before they can demand it.

Then there is the education for citizenship. As a student the citizen will have learned in his civics and government classes all about the duties of the mayor, the aldermen, his Congressman and the President. But as to the civic

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duties he, himself, might partici-  
pate in as a member of the school  
board, on a church building com-  
mittee, playground and recreation  
advisor and the like, he will have  
learned nothing. Does the aver-  
age citizen know what his Plan-  
ning Board is, what it is doing and  
why it should be supported? If  
he does, he did not learn it in  
school. It cannot be denied that  
an intelligent interest in and sup-  
port of these things is useful to  
the welfare of the community.

There is the further argument  
for an appreciation of good archi-  
tecture that applies to the ac-  
cumulation of wealth. Better archi-  
tecture makes better business.  
In the commercial field its in-  
creased customer attraction, and  
in the industrial field its more effi-  
cient production. That argument  
is merely a variation in the end  
result of the first argument but  
might make more sense to a busi-  
ness man.

The question would be asked,  
"How and what would you  
teach?" The proper answer would  
evolve from the meeting of many  
minds, but in general, the teach-  
ing program might start with an  
infiltration into the courses in  
civics, history and social studies.

In the social studies might be in-  
cluded the architectural back-  
ground of the countries and peo-  
ples studied, with, perhaps, spe-  
cial attention to the "why" of  
their building. In the history  
courses the social development in-  
cluding architecture, might be  
included along with the usual po-  
litical history. Civics courses  
could include the fundamentals of  
city planning and the work of the  
planning boards. At the high-  
school levels special courses could  
be created to cover community ar-  
chitecture, history and planning.  
Textbooks and supplementary  
reading matter not yet written  
would be necessary for all levels.

Finally, the architectural schools  
would have to broaden the scope  
of their offering to the lay student  
and the elementary teacher, bring  
their courses into line for this  
program. The schools should and  
must take the lead in the lay edu-  
cational field and in guidance and  
instruction of secondary school  
teaching personnel as the only  
qualified educational agencies.  
This lay education has tremendous  
possibilities and would require a  
generation to come to fruition. It  
would take a tremendous amount  
of work by our best minds to put

over such a program, but once it was underway, the benefits to the public through their own demands and to the profession by reason of an educated constituency would be inestimable.

The arguments and methods stated are not meant to be comprehensive, merely controversial. Is there any architect who does not believe it would be a fine

thing to have a public with a background knowledge of architecture? If there are no negative answers, then how else can a general background be acquired than through the elementary and secondary schools? Let us admit, then, that our lectures here and our exhibitions there are only drops in the educational bucket and get down to work on national education.

## Town Planning in Poland

*By Hermann H. Field*

DIRECTOR OF BUILDING PLANS FOR CLEVELAND COLLEGE, WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following observations formed the basis of a broadcast from London, Oct. 7, 1947, telling of observations made during a tour for the study of reconstruction and replanning in devastated parts of Europe. The author, in reply to our questions about the present political situation in Poland and how it had affected planning, wrote the following:

"There was no intentional soft-pedaling of political difficulties in Poland. Inevitably every country of Europe as an aftermath of the war has been faced with the solution of almost insuperable economic, social and political questions. This has especially been true in the case of countries such as Poland which in its prewar years had

still failed to solve problems which we in the West have taken for granted over the past hundred years, and whose governments fostered a colonial feudalism instead of trying to solve Poland's crying social and economic needs. Inevitably the change from years of prewar misgovernment, followed by the German devastation and the colossal task of rehabilitation, have involved Poland in a major social upheaval. This is obvious. What we want to know is what is being done with this opportunity—good or bad. There is no better and more revealing point of observation than the physical planning field which is, in its standards and approach, bound to reflect the broader social and economic thinking and ideals.

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"Our survey showed a most positive accomplishment, which deserves much wider attention in the profession in this country. If this is at variance with our concept of a Poland under the Russian iron heel, this is not the fault of Poland, and we cannot expect them to change the evident character of their work to suit our ideological necessities. The fact is that Polish planning, its neighborhood standards, its urban ideals, are strongly rooted in English precedent; that it reveals a spirit of independence and self-assurance and respect for the individual that are the characteristics of a free people working out their own destiny. This was borne out in our travels through the country and in the close contacts provided to us by unlimited Polish hospitality. In its socializing trends it obviously leans strongly on Russia, largely due to default of understanding of its needs by the West. In its culture it is much closer to the West. In the total picture it still is an amalgam of both, and one of great promise. Our experience was that the greatest obstacle to closer cultural ties came from our side in the crude concepts we have attached to Poland without being willing to look at what is really happening there."

**M**Y VISIT to Poland was part of a larger study of the progress in rebuilding, housing, and long-range planning which our group

made in England, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. These three countries seemed a logical continuity from West to East. Each had suffered wartime destruction and dislocation in various degrees, and each had in its own way embarked on a program for replanning its cities and countryside, not only as an immediate reconstruction measure but also with the long-range objective of making them more satisfactory places in which to live. And there are further parallels between the three countries in some of the enabling legislation for this replanning, as well as in the schemes themselves.

Of the three I was especially curious about Poland. In America we had little information on the general concepts of Polish reconstruction, and beyond that there were very conflicting reports about the state of things there. I had worked in Poland during 1939 prior to the war, and was then caught there in the German invasion during the first month. Since then there had been devastation on an unconceivable scale, followed when peace came again by a marked departure from the social, political and economic concepts that I had known in pre-war Poland. What does it all add up to in terms

of interest to the architect and planner? Here is one of the most baffling reconstruction assignments ever faced by any group of professional men: How are they solving it, and what guide is it to us in America as to Poland's future?

The answers to these questions came only gradually to our group after wandering through Warsaw's tragic ruins and those of many other Polish cities, and after discussing the planning problems everywhere with the men and women most directly concerned, from the planning offices all the way down to the folk who were clearing the endless rubble and restoring the burned-out shells of buildings that looked beyond repair.

What are the main problems with which Poland's architects and planners have to cope? The most immediate one is, of course, the rehabilitation of her devastated cities. It is a long list: Warsaw, Gdynia, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Szczecin—almost all of Poland's major cities with the exception of Krakow and Lodz, both of which suffered only minor damage. Warsaw is at the head of the queue, both because of the magnitude of destruction—80% of the main city

area either reduced to rubble or surviving only as gutted building shells, and because it has become a symbol of Poland's will to survive. Almost 600,000 people have again made Warsaw their home; that's nearly half its prewar population. There is a deep sense of participation, not only on the part of these people, but throughout the country, in every step of Warsaw's reconstruction. I saw brigades of volunteers working on clearance projects—not just local inhabitants, but students and youth from all over the country—giving their vacations to this job. There were even brigades from neighboring countries such as Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

During the past two years an amazing amount has already been done in rehabilitating Poland's major cities, but still in relation to the scale of destruction it is only a small beginning. In the immediate years ahead, the main job will still be to save the capital investment in repairable building shells, and in general this will have priority over the construction of new buildings. I was amazed at the way buildings which in America would have seemed beyond all possibility of salvage, are back in



POLAND REBUILDS—THE ZOLIBORZ PROJECT:  
ABOVE, AFTER THE BLITZ; BELOW, AS NOW RESTORED





POLAND REBUILDS—THE RAKOWICERE PROJECT  
ABOVE, AFTER THE BLITZ; BELOW, AS NOW STORED:



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use again with hardly a trace of their recent bad condition.

In spite of these limitations architects are already working on projects for public buildings, for neighborhood developments, and for housing projects in anticipation of the moment when work on these can begin. Even while I was in Warsaw, construction work was about to start on the first post-war housing project. Similarly everywhere teams of planners, while snowed under with the immediate emergency problems, were still somehow finding the energy to do the basic planning for the future development of their cities.

High priority in the rehabilitation work is given to surviving bits of buildings of cultural and historic value, such as churches, medieval town squares, and other outstanding architectural monuments. They feel that the future Poland must be rooted in its past, especially after what the country has been through.

The second problem facing Poland's planners is the destruction of thousands of her villages which formed the backbone of her predominantly agricultural economy. In the main battle areas villages have disappeared, leaving hardly a trace. I remember especially

seeing the effects of this in areas of northwest Poland with vast stretches of agricultural land no longer under cultivation. The building of new villages and the restoration of those that are not fully destroyed thus becomes an urgent task. This has led to a unique program of village replanning, involving a restudy of the village layouts for better living and more rational land use, and also the study and modification of traditional farm structures to fit them better to available materials and present needs. Near Warsaw I visited an experimental village called Piaseczno, where a variety of materials and construction systems had been used for the different buildings. In turn this village was part of a larger replanning study for the whole parish consisting of some fifteen villages. The most rational crops, the communications, the common services, administrative and health facilities, and the schools, and many other factors had all been brought into the master plan of this small region with the same care and interest that was being applied to the large urban centers. Similar studies are going on in other regions of Poland to develop typical patterns there. Inevitably most of

this is still in the blueprint phase, but the progress in rural rehabilitation is already reflected in the sharp improvement in the food situation this summer and fall. As with the cities, what is impressive is the combination of dealing with the emergency and at the same time making it the starting point for the planning of a much better future environment.

In addition to the reconstruction of Warsaw and her other major cities, there is a third problem affecting physical planning in Poland. That is the extensive changes in frontiers, with the loss of territory in the East and the gain of valuable new regions in the West. These changes are an important element in Poland's program of industrialization and in the improvement of her network of communications. Already millions of settlers from the more backward eastern areas have migrated into this new West, and there is an air of great optimism and feverish activity as these former German areas come back to life. But this migration is always in danger of running ahead of the planning. The impact of these settlers was especially noticeable in the ruins of Wroclaw, the former German Breslau, where the pre-war Ger-

man population of some 800,000 people has been replaced by some 280,000 Polish migrants, many of them in contact with urban life for the first time, and in any case unfamiliar with the problems of this region. Extensive studies are being made of the living habits of these newcomers so as to plan as closely to their needs as possible and help them to take root.

Finally, the most important aspect of Poland's physical planning is its careful integration from the national to the local scale, covering every corner of the country, and the correlating of this with its comprehensive economic and social planning. They are the two pillars of Poland's rapid recovery and of the better life that she seeks when once this is accomplished. In the economic sphere it takes the form of the 3-year National Economic Plan; in the environmental sphere the laws and procedure are established by "The Planned Physical Development of the Country Act" of April 1946, a parallel to England's Town and Country Planning Act, but much wider in its scope. Under this act the responsibility for developing the broad outline of the face of future Poland lies with the Central Office of Physical Planning. Under

it come a number of regional offices which apply these standards to the specific problems of the different main areas of the country. Then there are the local offices within these regions dealing with the replanning of cities and towns and villages, and with the architectural design of neighborhoods, and civic buildings and housing projects.

Now you may ask what the relation is of all this planning to the immediate rebuilding job at hand. Isn't there a gap between all the maps and projects and master plans for the future, and the clearing of the rubble and patching up of structures? Actually, this is not the case. Every bit of rebuilding is related carefully to the future aspect of the community. Some districts will be based on retention of rebuilt structures. Others will be reserved for green belts; other areas for entirely new neighborhoods of housing projects with all the component community facilities. The former Jewish district of Warsaw, now a 200-acre desert of rubble, is already under study as the site of a new residential district. But whereas formerly some 200,000 people lived there in overcrowded conditions, the future inhabitants will be limited to

45,000. And although this still sounds a lot for 200 acres, we must remember that this will be right in the center of the new city.

And this brings me to the final subject of the quality and success of Polish reconstruction, and through it the indications that it gives us as to Poland's future.

In planning technique and in the maturity of the actual design work, I would place Poland way out front. The scope of the planning is quite unique, and the standards should be of great interest to planners and architects in other countries. This is especially remarkable in view of the small resources in trained professional men left to Poland after the efforts of the Nazis to wipe out these elements of the Polish population. Each planner and architect whom we met is doing the work of ten, and at the same time training newcomers who have had no previous contact with this sort of work. The devotion of these teams to Poland's future and the cooperative spirit of their work, made a deep impression on us. And you must realize that their technical means in books and reference material, and even in drafting equipment, is of the most limited



kind, involving a great deal of improvisation.

Another thing we noted was that Poland's planners never lose contact with their public. They have wide access to the press to explain their projects. Warsaw's most popular illustrated weekly magazine is devoted almost entirely to the progress of Warsaw's reconstruction, as also to that of other cities. The public in turn make their point of view felt through their unions and consumer groups and their local elective bodies. This democratic interplay of ideas is a great asset in the

formulation of standards and trends.

Our visit in Poland revealed intensive creative work going on there. We in the planning field in America know very little about this, and this does not seem to be the Poles' fault. We saw all we wanted to, wherever we wanted. Poland's planners are eager to examine their problems with colleagues from other countries. Our study in Europe this past summer, and especially in Poland, confirmed the value of developing the widest possible contacts internationally in the planning and building fields.

## More and Better Apprentices for the Construction Industry

ONE HEARS a good deal of talk about the need for more apprentices in the building trades, but news of active efforts in that direction is comparatively rare. Not so in Los Angeles, however. There they really are doing something about it.

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has a Construction Industries Committee, under the general chairmanship of Earl T. Heitschmidt. This committee in turn has a Building Trades Committee

on Apprenticeship—fourteen men from all branches of the construction industry, including a representative from the City's school system. And it has just issued a booklet, "Apprenticeship," which develops forcefully the whole problem and how it may be solved to the benefit of the apprentice, the contractor, the building industry and the public.

Fortunately, the State of California has a statute providing for a Council, appointed by the Gover-

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nor, to regulate and promote the welfare of industry and the apprenticeship.

On the local level the program is implemented, controlled and supervised by committees for each trade, these committees including representation of both employers and employees. Upon certification by the committee that an apprentice has satisfactorily completed the term of apprenticeship, the California Apprenticeship Council awards a certificate of completion.

Before this is done, a number of factors come into the picture: The geographical area, definition of what an apprentice is, his length of term, a graduated wage schedule, the ratio of apprentices to journeymen, a schedule of major work processes, and the required hours of related school instruction.

With the average age of the skilled craftsman well over 50 years lately, and the normal replacement process having not functioned in recent years, due to the War and other causes, a larger supply of apprentices is sorely needed. This supply, being under the control of each trade, according to the California system, is in no danger of ever causing a glut or displacing competent men now at work.

The California apprenticeship program has been approved for training under both the Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act and the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The Building Trades Committee on Apprenticeship estimates that in 1947 about 50,000 craftsmen are engaged in construction work in the Los Angeles area. Eighty thousand is the expected peak when building reaches full tide. There are about 7,000 apprentices now preparing in this area. It is evident that many men are needed to become the skilled construction craftsmen of tomorrow.

The booklet paints the picture as it now appears and then goes on to show the responsibility, and the rewards, that must attach to the employer, the apprentice, the schools and particularly to the employer's foreman, who can make or break the whole program.

What Los Angeles has done looks good. Perhaps other cities may profit by its well-developed and effectively presented program. Further information may be had from Ken Winebrenner, Secretary, Construction Industries Committee, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

## Are Architects Companionable?

By Edwin Bateman Morris

These comments are perhaps more casual and less purposeful than is the wont of the JOURNAL. Nevertheless, a personal note now and then might well occur, to bring up friendly faces and emphasize the human side of our many-faceted profession.—Editor.

MANY WRITERS begin their articles by relating a boring incident, so the rest of it will seem better. I shall follow that procedure. When I was a young man—of course, not too many years ago—a friend of mine in the publishing business asked me (doubtless because of my expensive architectural education) to write a novel. The *raison d'être*, or theme, or pattern of this novel was to be to construct a female character with great charm.

In this connection, the mind naturally goes to the thought of pleasant personal research, but it didn't quite work out that way. The great problem became to design a masculine person who would at once be a companion piece and a foil to this lady of charm. The result was (showing how little we can predict our course) a bit of printing chiefly noticeable for the personality flavor of the man—especially as built up later by a very good actor in the movies.

I mention this as proving nothing

of great import; but as tending to show, contrary perhaps to general belief, that in the contest between the two foremost sexes, men, insofar as companionability and interest is concerned, are a very close second.

In a recent trip around Mr. Truman's Atlantic-to-Pacific domain, I had occasion to meet many architects and to give attention to their friendliness and companionability; perhaps greatly influenced by the fact that their interests paralleled mine, and that their thinking lay in channels with which I was familiar. At any rate, as I looked around at the various meetings, I found myself thinking, "Here are the best."

I look back with joy upon a gathering at Williamsburg, Virginia. Ted Coe, Louis Justement and Henry Saylor (I hope the Editor will not blue-pencil this last) were present, to make sure of its pleasant flavor. Julian Berla, a nice person to have around always, was even more entertaining than usual,

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purring amidst this restoration that he could of course scarcely call it architecture, but it had a faintly soothing taste, like a sweet but undoubtedly indigestible architectural *biscuit Tortoni*.

The young Marcellus Wright of Richmond, carrying the charm and grace of his father; George Van Leeuwen of Norfolk; Byron Williams of Newport News, president of the Virginia Chapter; William Dewey Foster, returned from Red-Crossing in Calcutta; and Edmund Campbell, Dean of Architecture at Virginia—built up an interesting scene.

Also of interest, the party was made smooth by the presence of wives. The presence of architects' wives at such occasions always brings out the best in the wives. After Williamsburg I began to think a great deal about the friendliness of architects.

One of the most interesting features of architecture is, I decided, the architects. Of course that is a sentimental build-up—the thought that ability to express personality in a building carries with it a personality that must shine through all ordinary acts and talk.

I could mention a long list of architects recently met to prove this premise. Perhaps a few, if

you will bear with me. Important in the list, as having given long steady years to the profession, would be Gerrit de Gelleke of Milwaukee, who has been for fifty years in the active practice of architecture, and is still alert, still interested in the unfolding of life.

Another person in Milwaukee definitely interested in the unfolding of life, ready to seize life genially by the hand or to slap it on the back, is William G. Herbst, a fine architect and a happy personality. When I said to him, "I am Edwin Morris," he exclaimed, "Congratulations!"—perhaps the top in absurd comment on that situation. When later I was trying to tell a story, his laugh was so infectious that I erroneously thought for a moment that I might have said something good. Such mercurial spirits make one decide all over again to go on living.

In Milwaukee is the firm of Eschweiler and Eschweiler, sons of a father architect. One of them, Ted, is president of the Milwaukee Chapter. They have added, as a secondary adjunct to the practice of architecture, aviation. One of them has, the other is obtaining, a pilot's license. The former, on the day before I met him, had flown to three distant jobs between

breakfast and dinner—a task which would otherwise have taken two or three days. Next a machine to transform sketches into working drawings.

In Chicago we met Hubert Burnham, silver-haired, urbane, a fine person to carry that name. No one could help liking Howard Cheney, who was present; and William J. Smith, a powerhouse of energy and drive—I wish I could bargain with him to share some of it.

Harold Smith, president of the Illinois Society of Architects, is an easy entertaining person, whose unassuming manner is, I think, a camouflage for much horsepower and momentum. John Cromelin, president of the Chicago Chapter, came late to the meeting, and unfortunately the opportunity to visit with him, even momentarily, did not arise.

An old friend, Pierre Blouke, who had in the early 'thirties done a good steadying job in the Home Owners' Corporation, was present, very much the same as ever, pleasant, composed, friendly. Harold McEldowney, of the Chicago zone of the University of Illinois, who conducts a large architectural school for the University in Chi-

cago, talked to me a little about his work.

A reminder of possible creeping up of age came as there appeared Leo Weissenborn, whom I had not seen except for one fleeting occasion since—oh, well, never mind. More bringing up of the tempus-fugiting idea occurred in other cities, notably in San Francisco, where I discovered Eddie French and Irving Brown, both reminiscent of the easy middle 'twenties in Washington.

In Chicago also were the two Palmers, Gerald and H. L.; Harry Carter, and Thomas Edward Cooke. Particularly stimulating was Paul Gerhardt, calm and unruffled, one of the pillars—no, that's traditional phraseology—one of the Lally columns—of The American Institute.

Through traveling faster than mail which was trying to overtake me, I was unfortunate enough to miss seeing John Gaw Meem at Santa Fé. In San Francisco the gathering of architects was brilliant and exciting—another occasion where architects were accompanied by their wives. The meeting was at a nice dinner-dancing room at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, which is right on the top of the famous Nob Hill, reached by a



ROBERT W. SPEERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN  
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*Do you know this building?*

SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON IRVING'S HOUSE (1656, 1780, 1835, 1847)  
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 Restored, 1947, and opened to the public through  
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street with, conservatively speaking, a 55% grade. Temple Dick, one of the regional directors of the F.H.A., and his lovely wife, Margot, did most of the arranging of the affair for me.

Mario Corbett and his wife also were there. Corbett is not related to Harvey Wiley Corbett, though his father was at the Beaux-Arts with Harvey Wiley—the French differentiating by the term *le grand Corbett* for the one and *le petit Corbett* for the other.

Mrs. Mario Corbett wore an interesting off-the-shoulder dress, intriguingly made from a Japanese kimono, very colorful and pleasant. Perhaps one should not bring up this matter, though it is in the functional spirit of the times. Her family apparently had had some doubts, viewing the dress, as to structural stability, fearing perhaps a superlative degree of the adjective off-the-shoulder. But she was calm, feeling that all stresses and strains and factors of safety had been given full consideration. And, as it turned out, she was correct.

Present also were Joseph Stein and landscape architect Royston. The former is the architect of the much-publicized housing project "Ladera," adjoining Stanford University at Palo Alto, for which

Royston is doing the landscaping. The drawings for this project of nearly 400 houses are now nearly ready. It is underwritten by the future owners of the individual houses, each covenanting to pay the cost of his own property, the advantage lying in mass design and mass construction. It will be an interesting project to watch, for financial saving and over-all architectural and planning results.

I stayed for a while in Hayward, a community south of Oakland, which serves as a part of the San Francisco-Oakland bedroom scheme. George Simonds, practising in Oakland, lives in Hayward. I had an interesting talk with him, touching on the palette of materials available in this climate, which is interestingly different from the Eastern one, there being not too much icy finger of winter in San Francisco.

I am reminded of something that happened in Chicago. In some facetious discussion as to whether sirloin steak could be palatably cooked in a tile tunnel kiln, I said I thought if the food were prepared as Wes Bessell of New York used to prepare it for broiling, very thickly covered with salt, it might be a possibility. Charles Nichol, president of the Chicago Building

Congress, asked me whether in using the past tense, I meant Bessell was dead—a somewhat absurd premise, Bessell being indestructible.

I should like to speak of many more of these architects whose paths crossed mine, but I'm afraid the Editor might pull the paper-shortage on me. Before he bangs the gavel, however, may I mention interesting friendships built up with John Jacoby in Milwaukee, and Powell Hall, of Jackson, Mississippi. Also on my list are Orestis Maltos, an architect from Athens, Greece; P. L. Varna and K. G. Bhato, of Simla and Poona, respectively, in far-off India.

In Los Angeles there was a nice gathering of architects, who entered into a good-humored discussion of the architectural trend, at times flaring up into excited opinion-stating. I was impressed by the logical thought processes of Richard Neutra, the intense though smiling comment of Pierpont Davis, the ahead-of-the-procession musings of Sumner Spaulding.

Dave Allison led the talk, shaping it into a pattern. I liked Ralph Flewelling, and Adrian Wilson, who is a calm and pleasantly firm person. Collectively they had an interesting point of view, and I

have come to believe it is the general slant taken by architects; that architecture to be architecture must be designed as the architect wants it, the ultimate onlookers to take it as it comes, liking it if they wish, turning the head if they do not like it.

The feeling is that there exists in the surrounding air and ether waves an intangible chunk of taste, which the architect in his mood of inspiration grasps and transmutes into tangible form. If this results in Taste made real, there has been accomplished something of intrinsic value.

A pleasant and exciting point of view! I have felt that architecture should refer itself to its public, checking always as to reception of the *message* by the onlookers. I have almost come to believe, now, that that may be too mundane, too heavy-footed for architects, though I still feel its strong advantages.

I feel its strong advantages because, though architecture is an immensely practical profession, a contest against the elements and all the forces of Nature, yet that last step—its form, its texture, its ultimate aspect—is concerned with the fine imaginings of taste. If those imaginings are too fine-drawn, they may miss and be not understood;

that would be the only reason for any referendum—to see if the ideas went over.

I laughed at Pierpont Davis, who fleetingly was with the War Department in Washington; Paul Hunter, getting back to the pure light of architecture, spoke of the appeal of the Parthenon; and Davis, completing a remark to someone else and listening with half an ear, stated that he appreciated those kind words since he was one of the designers of the Pentagon.

While in Los Angeles, Dave Allison took me around and about. Dave and I used to be actors. When we were in college we were in a play together. He had made himself up into one of the most repulsive characters I have ever met. I still see him with that flat derby hat and the blacked-out front tooth.

We paused for a moment at Hollywood and Vine, in sight of the Brown Derby, the hallowed spot reputed to be the "center of the world;" went on to the campus of U.C.L.A. Allison is Supervising Architect of the University, though about to resign, and his

wisdom and foresight have been of great value to the institution.

There is still evidence of a curious deep gully (you're correct—arroyo) which used to split the campus as effectively as if by a body of water. Confronted by the problem of great expansion, Allison suggested leveling off some of the high ground and dropping it into this arroyo. He ran counter to sentiment of long standing; but gentle though firm pressure succeeded in having this done, thus providing a vast expanse of additional campus, suitable for building.

Therein mayhap lies the secret of the architects' personal charm, if I am correct in the assumption that it does exist. Their spirit soars aloft, borne on the wings of fancy and inspiration, yet most of the time they must tread the ground firmly, keeping head level and tongue disciplined to diplomacy, tact and sound reasoning.

The mercurial spirit is there, tempered and rationalized by an understanding of life and the problems of living. If my assumption is correct.

"Our furniture, our rooms, our factories, our schools, our hospitals, our parks suffer from a long overdue need for a braver use of color."—GYORGY KEPES.

# Architectural Education

By William W. Wurster

DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, M.I.T.

A talk before The Architectural League of New York, November 6, 1947

FOUR YEARS AGO it was my privilege to talk in this room, and you gave me a warm reception even though my words had in great measure a criticism of The American Institute of Architects.

Now, those four years later, I am back to talk on Architectural Education, a complicated subject to which I certainly have not risen in mastery in this brief period. The attempt to voice, with exactness, just what constitute educational objectives is particularly close to me as we have just completed a bulletin which is the report of our School to its graduates. The layout of the bulletin is by Gyorgy Kepes and the text is by Henry-Russell Hitchcock, based upon the notes by members of the staff. In this document a more complete and polished job has been done than I will be able to do, even though I am leaning heavily upon it for this talk.

So much by way of introduction.

M.I.T. always seems to me to be one of the products of the industrial revolution, opening its doors

in 1865. Architecture was here from the start and was not grafted to a parent stem. On the opening day there were ten professors in the Institute and one of them was William Robert Ware, a graduate of Harvard College, who had come by his architecture in offices of that day. He turned for his model to the Beaux-Arts rather than to the other young technical schools of Europe, thus possibly deepening the split between the architects and engineers. It is idle fancy now to ask what would have happened if the decision had been otherwise.

Educational *objectives* and educational *tools* must not be regarded as having complete separation, yet to blur and confuse them is to be equally at fault, and this confusion is very commonly entered into.

Let us grant that the *objectives* form the core of education. This operates not merely in the present but far more significantly in the future. Professional education tries to discover and develop principles of more than merely tem-

porary validity. These principles must be so presented that they will grow and transform themselves in the minds of the graduates rather than be discarded as out-of-date when the graduates reach full professional maturity. We realize, as a principle, that the artist's creative power in form and expression can hardly be inculcated, though it can be recognized, stimulated and encouraged. Moreover the twentieth century stigmatizes as academic the assumption of many earlier ages that absolute rules of art can be codified and students indoctrinated in the *one* and *only* true path. We realize, too, that the education must be broad, but not thin, that it must be deep, but not narrow. The above seems brief to contain within its few sentences the major goal of education, but such to me seems to be the case.

When we come to *educational tools* we are at another level and one much easier to hold for sharp scrutiny. Here, too, we touch the easiest aspect of schooling. It pertains to skills and knowledge, while objectives pertain to wisdom.

We are at the subjects which are ready for argument. But before we argue let me stress again that these skills, no matter how impor-

tant, should never be allowed to stand in the way of objectives.

I would hold that architecture is a *social art* before it is a fine art. It is a social art because it is for people—it keeps out the rain and the cold; it stands steady to the elements. To be successful in its full sense it must do it beautifully, and when it does it is *fine art*.

We are at a point where architecture is broadening its base. When it first considers: Should it build in that location? Will it be economically sound? Should it be temporary?—this means we have added the skills of social research, political science and economic studies to those of the building of the structure itself. This implies teamwork and cooperation rather than the lone song of an individual.

All of this has a marked influence on educational process. We no longer stress the facet of individualism above all things. We have open juries at which the student presents his work. The students form in teams, and there is some attempt to solve the unpopular theme so that all plans receive a just hearing.

I will not go into detail upon the apportionment of the time spent on various subjects at M.I.T.

Our exhibit does that. It is proper to mention that we feel the core—the educational objectives—is at one with other schools.

I like to think of the staff and subjects as a stream which is flowing by the students for them to dip in, each as his talent allows. As the student grows stronger he can be more venturesome. The best should be able to plunge in.

The tools should and must be different in different places. There are schools which are mainly regional and others which are national and even international. Some are nested in Schools of Fine Arts, some in engineering and others are quite independent or team up with

landscape architecture and city planning. In such cases the stress at the periphery is quite different.

As a practising architect I can best phrase it as follows: When a hillside is given to me on which to place a house, I embrace it and do not long for a site on a meadow; and conversely, when a site comes on a meadow I embrace it and do not long for the hillside. So it is with education; embrace and develop your conditions—be they urban, use the city; be they rural, use the countryside. In a word, see clearly and develop with sincerity those things which then become an integral part of the major structure.

## Available Traveling Fellowships

### The Rome Prize Fellowships

**F**OURTEEN FELLOWSHIPS for mature students and artists capable of doing independent work in architecture, landscape architecture, musical composition, painting, sculpture, history of art, and classical studies have been announced by the American Academy in Rome.

These Fellowships will be awarded on evidence of ability and achievement, and are open to any citizen of the United States

for one year beginning October 1, 1948, with a possibility of renewal. Each Fellowship carries a stipend of \$1,250 a year, transportation to and from Rome, studio space, residence at the Academy if desired, and an additional travel allowance depending on costs in Europe. The total estimated value of each Fellowship is about \$3,000.

In the words of James Kellum Smith, F.A.I.A., President of the Board of Trustees, it is the hope that Fellows will gain "a broad

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human understanding, so that they may return to America, not with the thought of imitating the great art of the past, but with a power that will enable them to interpret freely and naturally the life of their own times in their own country."

All applications must be received by February 1, 1948. Requests for details should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

#### The James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship

AFTER a lapse of five years the seventeenth competition for this Fellowship will be held in the spring of 1948. It is open to all graduates in architecture of accredited architectural schools of the U. S. A.

The winner is selected by a fifteen-hour competition *en loge*, to be held February 14, 1948, at St. Louis.

The Steedman Fellow is expected to spend not less than twelve months abroad in study and travel in fulfillment of a plan of architectural research. The award has been augmented to \$3,000, instead of \$1,500 offered in 1942. This prize will be offered annually un-

til the accumulated surplus in the fund has been absorbed, after which it will be offered only in alternate years.

Details and application blanks may be had from the chairman of the Department of Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. Applications properly filled out must be returned not later than January 31, 1948.

#### The Lloyd Warren Scholarship

ANY CITIZEN of U. S. A. who will be under 30 years of age prior to July 1, 1948 is eligible to compete for the Lloyd Warren Scholarship, provided he has obtained or is scheduled to obtain his degree in architecture next June; or who is able to submit an affidavit stating that he has the equivalent in practical experience.

All interested and qualified competitors should send notification of their intention to compete not later than January 15, 1948 to the Lloyd Warren Scholarship Committee, 304 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y., giving the name of the supervisor or head of school through whom arrangements for holding exercises and delivery of programs can be made.

The stipend is \$5,000, and the



purpose is for architectural study and travel of over 18 consecutive months, of which approximately one year should be spent in France and other European countries.

#### **The LeBrun Traveling Scholarship**

**T**HE New York Chapter, A.I.A., announces the first post-war LeBrun Competition. This traveling scholarship, founded in 1910 by Pierre LeBrun, was of necessity suspended during the war. In former years the amount offered was \$1400. The 1948 scholarship will carry a stipend of \$2800, to cover a minimum of six months' travel outside the United States.

The subject of this year's competition concerns public health services. Harvey Stevenson, chairman of the committee in charge, in announcing the scholarship expressed the hope that the winner will engage in a certain amount of public health research in this country to supplement his travels abroad.

Competitors must be nominated by members of The American Institute of Architects who must certify that the nominee is a resident citizen of the United States not under 23 or over 37 years of age at the date of issuance of the

program, that he has had at least three years of active practice as an architect or architectural draftsman and that he has not been the recipient of any other traveling scholarship.

Nomination blanks may be obtained from the New York Chapter of The Institute at 115 East 40th Street, New York 16, N.Y. and must be on file before January 26, 1948. The program of the competition will be available on January 15th and will be issued to qualified nominees up to and including February 2. The closing date for shipment of competition drawings is March 31.

#### **The Lowell M. Palmer Fellowship**

**PURPOSE:** To enable a student of unusual promise to undertake advanced study of architecture at Princeton. The Palmer Fellow is exempt from tuition fees, and will receive a stipend of \$700 during his year of residence at Princeton. Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree, must be citizens of the U. S. A., less than 27 years of age on October 1, 1948. Applications, with supporting documents, due March 1, 1948. For blanks and details address the Secretary, School of Architecture, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

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## Architects Read and Write

*Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative.*



### HAVING FUN

By EUGENE W. DYKES, Canton, Ohio

I HOPE you will find time to pass this on to Edward Steese who took five precious pages from the October JOURNAL crying the blues that he has no understanding of contemporary architecture. His argument was based entirely on the

premise that, since things weren't as he would do them, they couldn't possibly be fun.

My question to Mr. Steese: How do you know we don't have fun? With or without French curves, we do.

### "ARCHITECTURE AND THE ART OF MEDICINE"

By GODFREY POGGI, Elizabeth, N. J.

IT WAS with great interest and appreciation that I read the account in the October issue of the JOURNAL of Dean Hudnut's address before the Third Ann Arbor Conference on Hospital planning.

His address was a masterpiece, and I hope every member of The Institute read the article in its entirety. Out of it can be gleaned many lessons and, if followed through in a practical manner, should become productive of greatly improved conditions in future architectural practice.

In the first place, Dean Hudnut's recital of his experience with his friend the hospital manager, who planned a hospital without the services of an architect, clearly shows the trend of the times, and is but one of many current ex-

amples thereof. Every practising architect knows this and is now finding himself too frequently looked upon as "the fifth wheel to the cart."

Then again the good Dean stated: "Of all the arts, architecture has suffered most from this disintegration of culture." Here again he hit the nail squarely on the head. This it would seem indicates still another trend, i.e., As the culture and aristocracy of the public decreases, its appreciation of the cultural value of the architect also decreases and in like proportion. In short, correct architectural design is now largely over the heads of the people, and the practice of engineering is accordingly in the ascendancy.

Many other lessons, as well, can be learned from the Dean's ad-

dress, but "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." The question

therefore arises, What are we going to do about it?

### THE "LYTCHFIELD" HOUSE

By ELECTUS D. LITCHFIELD, F.A.I.A., New York

**W**AS IT Thomas U. Walters or the JOURNAL staff who was responsible for spelling my grandfather's name "Lytchfield" in the interesting story of Richard Upjohn? [Dec. '47 JOURNAL]. I knew that he had designed two houses for my grandfather—one of which burned down during construction and was not rebuilt, and the other which was my grandfather's home during my early youth.

I have always been a bit "stuck

up" to think that he had the wisdom, to say nothing of the where-withal, to employ the leading architect of the day. It was quite a house, and with its stables and the house which my grandfather built for my aunt, it formed an interesting composition. It was built of brownstone, the fashionable new material of the period, in a modified Renaissance style, and according to my eldest sister, contained the unbelievable number, for those days, of six bathrooms.

### HELP!

By TOM VANDEVELLE, Grosse Point, Michigan

**A**RGHITECTURAL engineering, the profession of Architecture, call it what you may, is on the decline! I believe that within the next 50 years all the architects with any ingenuity will be gone, leaving only school-taught inexperienced architects. This situation will arise from today's need of experienced architectural draftsmen. All the want ads and interviews stress the question, "Are you experienced?", which usually means four to ten years' previous work.

The architects of the past gave time to helping young inex-

perienced men along. Those young, inexperienced men are the architects of today, but you would not know it! They surely *do not* follow in their predecessors' footsteps, I am sorry to say. I suppose they think the knowledge they possess, which literally has been passed down for centuries, has come to its conclusion. If this is their idea, they are obviously not fitted to the title of architect. As long as there are people on this earth they will need architects to design bigger and better buildings for them. If the architects of today would realize this, they would

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more than likely, be eager and willing to further the efforts of the promising young architectural engineer.

There are two excuses that architect-employers usually give to young beginners for not hiring them. These are: 1) they are too busy to devote any time to helping him, and 2) they have not enough money to waste on a beginner. If an architect is silly enough to use these two excuses together, it is quite evident that he is lying for, if he is busy in this age of high wages, he surely is making more money than ever before, and to spend a little of it on a promising beginner would not bankrupt him. It may help him in the long run, for the young man may in time become a valuable man in the office.

Also the majority of the young men are not asking two or three dollars an hour, but only a small amount as pay so that they can cover some of their expenses.

Many of the beginners, who are really interested, do know something about the job; therefore, they can be put on some small jobs at first, which would be of help and would not need constant supervision. Later, as they learn by studying, they can be given more vital jobs. If a system such as this were used, the interested young men would not take long to become excellent architectural draftsmen.

The architectural profession today is based on a high standard but if new men are not broken in soon, tomorrow's grade may turn out very low.

## Architectural Instructors Needed

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS in Architectural Design and related courses are needed at the schools of architecture for the Spring and Fall Semesters. Those interested in a career in the teaching profession

should apply to Professor Paul Weigel, Chairman of the Committee on Employment of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

## An Appeal from Hungary

ANOTHER PLEA for help from ravaged Europe comes from the Technical Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Education. The need is specifically for archi-

tectural drawings showing the construction of schools and buildings for educational, research, exhibition and similar purposes. The plea follows:

"As you are sure to know, Hungary's school buildings have suffered heavy damages during this war, as they were mostly used by the different troops for military purposes. Hungary is furthermore introducing a new type of school, called the "general school," necessitating the building of some 5000 new classrooms. This great work will be an achievement of the new Hungarian democracy, quite outstanding in the history of this country, and therefore without precedents: this, however, means also that—at least for the time being—we will not be able to give you any

similar exchange material. It is, however, the wish of the competent Hungarian authorities that the most up-to-date methods be followed in the location of the aforesaid institutions, as well as in that of lower-grade, middle and higher collections, special attention being naturally given to agricultural schools.

"It would be very kind of you if you could assist us in this important matter; blueprints, periodicals, books, pamphlets, etc., would all greatly contribute to the future development of the Hungarian educational system."

## Honors

JOHN TAYLOR ARMS, HON. A.I.A., has been elected one of the three new members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

TO MATTHEW LUCKIESCH, Director of General Electric Company's Lighting Research Laboratory, the Gold Medal of the Illuminating Engineering Society. This supreme honor of the Society is awarded in recognition of "meritorious achievement which has conspicuously furthered the art or knowledge of Illuminating Engineering."

TO FREDERICK HUDSON ECKER is awarded the annual gold medal of the Hundred Year Association of New York for his achievements in the field of better housing. Mr. Ecker, now 80 years old, has been the spearpoint of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's building for many years.

MAHONRI M. YOUNG, sculptor, has been elected as one of the three new members in the 1947 elevation from the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

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## Books & Bulletins

**AMERICAN MIRACLE.** By Van Rensselaer Sill. 318 pp. 6" x 9¼". New York: 1947: The Odyssey Press. \$4.

A thrilling account of America's achievements in construction during World War II, at home and around the world.

**SCHWEIZER HOLZHAUSER AUS DEN FAHREN, 1920-1940.** By Paul Artaria. 128 pp. 6½" x 9". Basel: 1947: Wepf & Co. 10 fr.

Switzerland's dwellings of wood construction, with many plans, sections and photographs.

**BYZANTINE LEGACY.** By Cecil Stewart. 202 pp. 7½" x 10". London: 1947: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. (Imported by The Macmillan Co.). \$7.

A lecturer on medieval history at the Architectural Association records, in his own drawings, photographs and anecdotal text, his enthusiastic impressions while on a pilgrimage before the war through Northern Greece to Athos and Constantinople, and through the Peloponnese to Sicily and Italy.

**YOUR SOLAR HOUSE.** Maron J. Simon, Editor. 128 pp. 9¾" x 13". New York: 1947: Simon & Schuster. \$3. (\$1 in paper covers).

An architect in each state of the union was commissioned by Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company

to design a house for his local region, these architects being selected through an elaborate scheme of nominations by a jury. The roster of 49 architects is particularly impressive, and their widely differing solutions lend encouragement to the hope that regional considerations are going to have more and more to say about what we shall build.

**HOSPITAL CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.** By the Commission on Hospital Care. 656 pp. 6" x 9¼". New York: 1947: The Commonwealth Fund. \$4.50.

The Commission, established in October 1944 by the American Hospital Association, has been most concerned with how to get adequate hospitalization to more people. Architects designing hospital buildings will find the book of value in preliminary analytical study.

**AN ALPHABET SOURCE BOOK.** By Oscar Ogg. 200 pp. 9" x 11¾". New York: 1947: Dover Publications. \$3.95.

Another welcome addition to the literature of lettering as a fine art.

**THE PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.** A report to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. 98 pp. 8" x 12¼". Lake Success, N. Y.: 1947: United Nations.

(Columbia University Press has published an edition of this work at \$2.50.)

The findings of the Director of Planning, Wallace K. Harrison and the Board of Design Consultants. One gets the impression that no architect of the notable galaxy conceived the answer—the needs and anticipated functions themselves led inevitably to the plan and could not be denied.

**TIME-SAVER STANDARDS.** A Manual of Essential Architectural Data. 656 pp. 8½" x 11". New York: 1947: F. W. Dodge Corp. \$12.

An assembly of these well-known graphic aids, from their first appearance in *The American Architect* and throughout the ten years in which the latter magazine was absorbed in the *Architectural Record*. A full index is provided.

## Calendar

*January 10, 11:* Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Planners, La Salle Hotel, Chicago.

*January 12-16:* Second National Materials Handling Exposition in the Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio.

*February 2-6:* Eighth International Heating and Ventilating Exposition, Grand Central Palace, New York.

*March 15-19:* Sixteenth Annual Meeting and Sixth Annual Industrial Exposition of the American Society of Tool Engineers, Cleveland, Ohio.

*March 22-24:* Chicago Technical Conference, sponsored by fifty-one societies affiliated with the Chicago Technical Societies Council, Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

*March:* Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lighting Exhibit postponed from October 1947, Hotel Commodore, New York City. Specific dates, early in March, to be announced later.

*May 27-30:* Annual Conference of the R.I.B.A., to which A.I.A. members expecting to be in Europe are invited, Liverpool.

*June 20-25:* Eightieth Convention of The American Institute of Architects, Salt Lake City, Utah.

*June 26:* Formal Constitutive Assembly uniting Le Comité Permanent International des Architectes (C.P.I.A.) and the Reunions Internationales des Architectes (R.I.A.) Lausanne, Switzerland.

*June 29:* First International Congress of Union Internationale des Architectes, Lausanne, Switzerland.

*September 20-24:* Annual Technical Conference of the Illuminating Engineering Society, Hotel Statler, Boston.

*September 20-24:* Fiftieth Anniversary Convention, American Hospital Association, Atlantic City, N. J.

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## The Editor's Asides

ERIC ARTHUR, F.R.A.I.C., Editor of the *Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal*, beats us to an editorial comment that has long been gestating in our so-called mind. He deplores this generation's treatment of the word "home," particularly in the debasing substitution of it for the word "house":

"There is no more significant or personal word in the language than the word 'home,' and to vulgarize and commercialize it by such terms as '\$5,000 home,' 'insulated home,' 'prefabricated home' or 'radiant heated home' is surely a sin against the English language . . . Probably, the first person to use the word home in its new crude commercial sense was a real estate salesman. We can see him, with his clients, before a quite unsalable speculative builder's house; a house that lacked charm and convenience, and the cost was probably high. The salesman then had the brilliant idea of vesting in a pile of bricks and mortar something personal, intimate desirable and irresistible. He offered for the first time in our language and history, a home for sale. Since then his brethren have seen the commercial possibilities

of the word. The interior decorators have seized on it, and those who traffic in the dead have reached the ultimate in its commercial exploitation—the 'funeral home'."

With his characteristic tact Eric Arthur does not mention U. S. Governmental bureau titles, but, having no such inhibition, we point with shame to: "Home Loan Bank Board," "Home Owners' Loan Corporation," "Defense Homes Corporation," "Housing and Home Finance Agency."

Well, it is some satisfaction that no one has yet tried to debase the White House, the House of Representatives, or the House of God.

IT WAS, I think, Buckminster Fuller who first started this comparison of houses with automobiles on the basis of price per pound. Bucky had a rational idea behind his contention that a completely prefabricated Dymaxion house might bring about a more nearly balanced ratio of weight and cost between the house and the car. But now a former president of the National Retail Lumber Dealers' Association points out that a 90,000-lb. conventional house is now being

sold in his locality for \$9,000, or 10c a pound; whereas an automobile weighing 3,170 lbs. sells for \$1,273, or 40c a pound.

So what? I wonder if he is trying to prove that the assembly line principle is uneconomical.

SOMEONE ASKED the U. N. Director of Planning, Wallace K. Harrison, why the international planning group felt that the slab-like skyscrapers and the low intervening buildings were attractive. Harrison's answer: "Just what kind of architecture are we sure is attractive?"

IN THESE DAYS of concern with tense international relations, starvation abroad, inflation here at home and the coming of a new comet, we can hardly expect much attention to the news that Charles Klauder's Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh has been struck by lightning. But this was no ordinary bolt. It seems to have been the mightiest ever recorded. The stroke consisted of five separate surges, at least one of which contained an estimated 345,000 amperes of electricity. It was recorded on special instruments installed as part of a Westinghouse research program. The bolt struck a mast

mounted on the roof, 535' above the ground, and traveled down the mast and at least two of the four guy wires that held it in place. The tower itself suffered no damage, as the lightning traveled to the ground through the steel frame. The most powerful bolt previously recorded was a 160,000-ampere stroke in 1941 upon the 585' smelter stack at Butte, Montana.

SINCE MAN INVENTED MOVABLE TYPE, the invention persists in getting out of hand. The letters say things that are not in the writer's mind. In the December JOURNAL, under the heading of "The Government's Housing and Home Finance Agency," the type made us mention the three constituent agencies of HHFA as "Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Public Housing Council." What we meant to list were the HLBB, the FHA and the Public Housing Administration. The National Housing Council, under the chairmanship of the HHFA Administrator, is now created by the plan and includes representatives of the VA, the RFC and the Department of Agriculture in addition to the three constituent agencies of the HHFA.

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